135 W. 116th St.,
April 14, 1887.

My Dear Friend,

I have just received the enclosed letter from W. L. G. Jr., which gratifies me exceedingly. Now the ~~only~~ first question is whether the MS. had better go to you or to Howland. I hardly dare, after the receipt this morning of your postal, to assume that you are sufficiently recovered to read it with safety, and I don't want to risk sending it to Howland before hearing from him and getting his precise address. His letter to you was simply dated at Worcester, without mention of street

or number, and I could only direct my letter to him in the same way. Not having had a reply, I am a little afraid it miscarried. I wrote him by the same mail that took the MS. to W. L. G., Jr.

In the Proceedings of the Antiquarian Society, ~~1870~~ p. 130, I find this record under date of Oct. 5th:

"Mr. Thayer spoke at some length, referring to the continual abuse and opposition of the Garrisonians to the movement of the Emigrant Aid Company, which gave freedom to Kansas and ultimately to the whole country; this, he said, was a matter of record and could not

be disputed. The work of the Emigrant Aid Company was also a matter of record. Individual assertions amount to nothing without the proof of contemporary documents. He could produce his documents. No controversy should be carried on in the Society, but he would maintain his position elsewhere, at any time or place, against any <u>competent</u> assailant."

I suspect that word <u>competent</u> was sarcastically aimed at Mr. Howland, whose well-directed shot at a previous meeting evidently hit the mark.

In order to get a hearing before the Society, would it not

be well for a few Abolitionists (say 8 or 10) to unite in a request to the managers that I or some one for me, should be permitted to read before it my review? How I wish I could read it myself!

But a hall will have to be secured for my reply, as one was procured for Thayer, and the occasion will need advertising in the papers in order to secure an audience. To read my reply before the Society at an ordinary meeting attended by very few persons, would hardly be satisfactory.

Yours, affectionately,

Rivers Johnson

MS. B. 1.6 v. 11. p. 76